

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

19 December 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador Heyward Isham
Director for Combatting Terrorism
Department of State

FROM : Cord Meyer, Jr.
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director

SUBJECT : Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1977

REFERENCE : Draft dated 12/16/77

1. (U) This memo is in response to your request for CIA comments on the changes and modifications recommended to Senator Ribicoff's bill, "The Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 1977" by the Executive Committee for Combatting Terrorism.

2. (U) As we had noted in our previous memos to you, the exemption to the disclosure requirements in section 104 of the Ribicoff bill is too narrowly drawn because sources and methods may be seriously affected and compromised by an indirect danger or threat. We therefore propose that the following language be added to section 104 (c) (2) on page 14 to read:

"(2) directly or indirectly compromise a covert information gathering program, project, task force, or source of information; or"

3. (U) Although the definition of terrorism is an improvement over that contained in the Ribicoff bill, the Committee might want to consider the definition agreed to by the Special Coordinating Committee and set forth in the proposed executive order to replace E.O. 11905. That definition reads as follows:

(f) International terrorist activities means any activity which:

(1) involves:

(i) killing, causing serious bodily harm to, or kidnapping one or more individuals, or

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(ii) violent destruction of property, or

(iii) an attempt or credible threat to commit acts specified in subparagraphs (i) or (ii) above; and

(2) appears intended to endanger a protectee of the Secret Service or the Department of State or to further political, social or economic goals by:

(i) intimidating or coercing a civilian population or any segment thereof; or

(ii) influencing the policy of a government or international organization by intimidation or coercion; or

(iii) obtaining widespread publicity for a group or its cause; and

(3) transcends national boundaries in terms of:

(i) the means by which it is accomplished,

(ii) the civilian population, government, or international organization it appears intended to coerce or intimidate, or

(iii) the locale in which its perpetrators operate or seek asylum.

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Cord Meyer, Jr.